

## DEBATE WIDENS ON NEW CONSTITUTION

Counsellor Polk of State Department Joins Opponents of Change.

WADSWORTH SEES GAIN

Frank L. Polk, counsellor of the State Department at Washington and former Corporation Counsel, aligned himself yesterday with the opponents of the proposed new State Constitution. Mr. Polk came to New York to register on Saturday. Before returning to Washington he said that he opposed the adoption of the new Constitution, as New York City could gain little through the change.

United States Senator James W. Wadsworth Jr., chairman of the committee on the constitution of the State, issued a statement to the labor unions of the State giving thirteen reasons why the Constitution should be defeated.

"Home rule is the crying need of the cities of the State, but the new Constitution is scarcely less grinding in its effect than the old," said Mr. Polk. "While it makes a specious show of granting larger powers of self-government, it limits every concession with causes that make it useless and ineffective. New York City can expect nothing better than to be embroiled in endless litigation if the new Constitution is adopted."

Polk Sees Many Defects.

"No change worthy of note is made in New York City's representation in the Legislature. Although New York has more than half the population of the State and pays 70 per cent. of the State's total taxes it has only 42 per cent. of the representation in the Assembly. The new Constitution would continue this injustice for twenty years, as there is good reason to believe that no reform in this matter will ever be accomplished through a separate amendment."

"It seems to me that there are many other defects in the proposed Constitution, and that much of the good it contains may be secured through legislative action."

In his letter Senator Wadsworth said: "We write to urge you to work for the adoption of the proposed Constitution, which in its main provisions carries out the constitutional revision pledges made by the political parties of the State."

"Even if this were not the case the proposed Constitution would deserve little support on its merits. Its most important changes are dictated by a sane, intelligent effort to remedy abuses and to increase the efficiency of government. It is a progressive document in the best sense of the word. Support of its adoption will strengthen any party in the only way that a party deserves to be strengthened; namely, by the rendering of a great public service."

Praises Budget Idea.

"Many of its advantages are conceded. Its new provisions regarding the State debt will save millions in interest payments. The article providing for a State budget not only commands favorable general support in the State but has attracted the attention of a large number of the nation's leading statesmen. Reorganizing the present welter of over 150 State agencies into seventeen great administrative departments will not only save money but increase efficiency. The judiciary article will quicken and cheapen the securing of justice. The home rule article gives the cities of the State enlarged powers, protects them against special legislation and affords their citizens direct participation in the formulation and adoption of city charters."

"It is not so generally understood that the proposed Constitution takes long steps toward the improvement of the character of the Legislature and the quality of legislation. We scarcely need to tell you, with your practical experience, that every decrease in the number of inconsequential matters pressed upon the Legislature; every decrease in the incentive to and opportunity for log rolling is pure gain. We know that these opportunities in the past have perverted legislation and brought the Legislature into contempt and disrepute. We know that every right minded legislator will welcome relief from these evils no less than the great body of our citizens."

"But some ask that we should forego all these manifest advantages lest the Constitution make the Governor a king. Our present Constitution and most other State constitutions place responsibility without adequate power on the Governor, and power over administration without responsibility somewhere else. For nearly a century the constitutions of this State have said that the Governor shall be the chief executive of the State and shall see to it that the laws are faithfully executed, and then the Constitution has seen to it that the Governor could not possibly control more than a small fraction of the agents of the State charged with its administration."

Million Views of Perfection.

"Some persons talk of opposing the proposed Constitution because some new provision was not inserted. One would think that the choice was between perfection, as seen by each one of a million voters, and what is now proposed. It cannot be repeated too often that the simple question before the State is: Shall the present Constitution remain in effect with all its known defects or shall it be superseded by the proposed Constitution, with all its manifest advantages and its courageous reform of known abuses?"

"In comparison with the present Constitution, the proposed Constitution stands exhaustive scrutiny."

The State Federation of Labor gives the following reasons for its opposition to the new Constitution:

The ignoring of a memorial presented to the convention by labor leaders on May 25.

The short ballot.

The failure to incorporate a provision limiting the authority of military tribunals.

## MANILA SENDS PLEA TO KEEP FLAG ON THE PACIFIC

India House Posts It and Is Greatly Interested in Having the Disastrous La Follette Seamen's Act Repealed.

From Manila India House of New York has received a plea for action to prevent the La Follette seamen's act from driving the United States flag off the Pacific. The plea is contained in a memorial signed by seven leading business men who predict disaster to international trade unless this law is repealed.

The fact that 124 of the 168 delegates were lawyers.

WILL DISCUSS CONSTITUTION.

Merchants Association to Hear Stimson and O'Brien.

The new State Constitution and its relation to business will be discussed at a luncheon meeting of the Merchants Association on Wednesday, October 20, by Henry L. Stimson, former Secretary of War, and Morgan J. O'Brien, former Justice of the Supreme Court. The meeting will be held in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Astor. It will be the first luncheon meeting of the council since the summer vacation.

Although there has been much discussion of the new Constitution, the probable effect of the revision on the business of the city and the State has received little attention. For this reason the Merchants Association, which broadly represents the business of the city, has selected this aspect of the work of the convention for discussion.

Mr. Stimson was elected to the convention of the Republican delegates at large. He took a prominent part in the debates, both as chairman of the committee on State finances, revenues and taxes, and as a member of the majority. Mr. O'Brien was second vice-president of the convention and leader of the Democratic minority.

## R. R. TAXES UP 136 PER CENT. IN DECADE

In 1905 the Roads Paid \$63,474,679 and in 1914, \$150,371,100, Says U. S. Bureau.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—Official figures compiled by the Bureau of Railway Economics show that between 1905 and 1914 taxes paid by all the railroads in the United States increased 136 per cent. The roads paid in 1905 \$63,474,679 in taxes and in 1914, \$150,371,100, an increase of \$86,896,421.

Taking 1905 as a basis year, it is shown that taxes in 1906 were \$74,755,615, an increase of \$11,280,936, or 17 per cent.; in 1907 the taxes were \$79,410,913, an increase of \$4,655,304, or 5.97 per cent.; in 1908 the taxes were \$78,672,794, an increase of \$15,199,115, or 23.95 per cent.; in 1909 the taxes were \$85,139,554, an increase of \$21,466,760, or 24.76 per cent.; in 1910 the taxes were \$104,585, an increase of \$44,445 per cent.; in 1911, \$108,399,212, an increase of 7.93 per cent.; in 1912, \$120,619,844, an increase of 11.29 per cent.; in 1913, \$129,338,100, an increase of 7.28 per cent.; and in 1914 taxes were \$150,371,100, an increase of \$20,933,000, or 16.2 per cent. The increase in taxes on the anthracite roads is even more impressive.

The anthracite roads paid \$3,599,214 in 1905 and \$10,419,214 in 1914, an increase of \$6,819,999, or 190.5 per cent. The net operating revenue of all the roads in 1905 was \$1,290,562,152, and in 1914 the total operating revenue was \$2,200,313,159, or an increase of 69.7 per cent.

The net operating revenue of all the roads in 1905 amounted to \$691,880,254, and in 1914 the net operating revenue was \$1,290,562,152, an increase of 86.8 per cent. The ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues in 1905 was 66.7 per cent. and in 1914 72.2 per cent. There has been a gradual increase in operating ratio since 1910. The ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues in 1905 was 66.7 per cent. and in 1914 72.2 per cent. The ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues in 1905 was 66.7 per cent. and in 1914 72.2 per cent.

Thus it is shown in a comparison of the figures of 1905 and 1914 that, while total operating revenues of gross revenue, increased 46.3 per cent., operating expenses increased 56.2 per cent. and net operating revenues increased 22.4 per cent., taxes increased 136.30 per cent.

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BLIND ANOINTED FOR CURE.

Faith Treatment at Missionary Convention Here.

Anointing the afflicted, blind and ill was a part of the services of the missionary convention, yesterday in the headquarters of the Christian Alliance at 490 Eighth avenue. This followed exercises at which \$42,500 was raised for missionary work.

More than fifty persons were anointed. Some were blind, others were lame, palsied or deaf. They were led to the pulpit where the Rev. Dr. A. B. Simpson, head of the alliance, put his hands on their foreheads. The preacher quoted Bible texts proclaiming physical healing. The sufferers carried away leaders telling them that cures that had been effected by anointing.

Among the persons who subscribed to the missionary fund was Sophie, a scrub-woman who gave an entire year's salary to the cause.

The alliance will hold services today. These will be devoted to rescue mission work. The alliance does street rescue work in this and other cities.

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TO BIND AMERICAS IN A POSTAL UNION

Parcel Exchange Nearly Complete and Burleson Plans Money Order System.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—A parcel post convention has been concluded between the United States and the Argentine Republic, to take effect October 15. It represents the first of a series of efforts on the part of Postmaster-General Burleson to get a complete system of parcel exchange with all the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Of all the nations of South and Central America Paraguay is the only one now without a parcel post convention with the United States.

The agreement with Argentina corresponds to those in effect with the other South American States. This limit of weight is eleven pounds, which is the international limit, and the postage rate from this country is the maximum rate in the United States domestic parcel post service, 12 cents a pound.

As Argentina is one of the largest of the Latin American countries, the new parcel service is expected to be of much commercial value to American exporters. Parcel post business between the United States and South American countries has steadily increased.

Now that the parcel post is about complete in the Western Hemisphere the Postmaster-General will vigorously renew his efforts to obtain a complete money order system and to apply the domestic letter rate throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The extension of the postal money order system will greatly stimulate the development of parcel post business. Money orders are now exchanged between the United States and Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador in Central America, and between the United States and Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay in South America. Negotiations for further extensions are in various stages of advancement.

These overtures have generally met with encouragement, particularly in the cases of Argentina and Brazil. The varying standards by which values are computed in the Latin American countries present the greatest difficulty in arranging money order treaties.

Proposals for postal conventions providing that the two cent United States domestic letter rate apply to letters from the United States for each of the countries and colonies of the Western Hemisphere, and that the domestic letter rates of each of these countries and colonies apply to letters to the United States, have been twice submitted to the thirty-three countries and colonies involved.

Conventions have been concluded and are now in effect providing for the reciprocal domestic letter rate with the Bahamas, Barbados, British Honduras, Dutch West Indies and the Leeward Islands.

Dr. Idleman Accepts Call.

Announcement was made yesterday in Central Church, Disciples of Christ, in West 145th St., that the Rev. Dr. Elmer A. Idleman of Central Christian Church, Des Moines, Ia., had accepted the call to come to New York City to succeed the late Rev. Dr. J. H. Rhoads as president of the board of trustees.

Dr. Idleman is 40 years old and a graduate of Eureka College and the University of Chicago. He has been a special lecturer to the divinity students of the University of Chicago and has been in charge of the board of trustees.

Just at present, when business men of every great nation are preparing to enter a contest for the world's trade when the war in Europe shall have ended, they are all agreed in opinion that American laws should be framed with the idea of developing rather than handicapping the commercial interests of this country.

Members of this committee decline to say whether the report will go so far as to recommend participation in the campaign for the repeal of the La Follette law at the opening session of Congress, which opens in December, but regarded as certain, however, that the report will point out several features of the act which are regarded as extremely objectionable.

The measure contains twenty sections, three of which are opposed in their entirety and one in part by business men who have made a close study of the subject. The language test clause, requiring 75 per cent. of the men in each department of a crew to understand the language of a vessel's officers is particularly objectionable. This provision will weigh most heavily on ships having American or European officers and Oriental crews.

It gives an enormous advantage to Japanese ship owners, because the Japanese are the only Oriental race producing ship officers. Both officers and crews of their vessels are of that race. Asiatic crews are employed on American ships in the Pacific because they cost only one-fourth or one-fifth as much as white crews. The provision is, therefore, practically prohibitive so far as the trade of the United States is concerned.

Recent gains made by the Japanese in the race for control of the Pacific are shown by these figures, covering periods of August 1 of three successive years:

Number of Japanese ships 20 21 40  
Tonnage 48,725 50,418 142,170  
Number of Japanese crews 5 5 5  
Tonnage above 500 tons 5 5 5

Objectable also is the provision of the La Follette law giving every seaman the right to demand and receive from the master of his vessel half of the wages he shall have earned at any port that he ship touches. It is urged that this section will encourage desertion and give the unions control of the employment of substitutes on terms which the unions may dictate.

The provisions requiring that certain percentages of the deck crew be able to speak English will have the effect, business men assert, of causing serious delays in the sailings of vessels. The number of able seamen available is insufficient.

The prediction was made yesterday that the Chamber of Commerce of the United States will shortly take action against the oppressive provisions of the new law. Following protests from many influential members in various parts of the country, a special committee was appointed to investigate the situation. When it has reported a referendum vote of the 300,000 business men, firms and corporations composing the membership will be taken.

Yet another committee, which is investigating the probable effects of the new law, represents the Merchants Association of New York. This organization regards the subject as of special importance to this city because 45 per cent. of the total foreign trade of the country passes through its port.

The name India House was adopted by the club in Hanover Square because for centuries "India" and the "Indies" stood for all that was foreign, landed, most alluring and most profitable in commerce. The organization was formed last year to work for the perpetuation of all that was good in the trade of the world and the revival of conditions under which the nation enjoyed its rightful share of the world's commerce.

Occupying the old Cotton Exchange building, away down town, it is primarily a luncheon club, but within the limitations of a social organization it has become a large force in the healthful development of the nation's interests abroad. It brings together not only the men in foreign trade in New York but the consular officers of foreign governments located here and returning diplomatic and consular officers of the United States have its private members, who meet weekly for lunch and political news from the ends of the earth enter in the discussions around its tables.

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